

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN SS-25

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L - JMICHEL

AID/AA/EA - AGARDINER (DRAFT)

S/S-O - PJOHNSON

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O 140604Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

CSAF IMMEDIATE

MAC SCOTT AFB ILL IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACAF IMMEDIATE

SEAAC 7TH SDA UTAPAO IMMEDIATE

SEAAC 7TH AFLD THAI IMMEDIATE

USSAG NKP THAI IMMEDIATE

CDR 13TH AF CLARK AFB PI IMMEDIATE

USDAO SAIGON VS IMMEDIATE

JLO CAMP SAMAE SAN TH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 084237

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, MASS, CB, US

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA (AIRDROP)

REF : (A) BANGKOK 6279 (131251Z NOTAL)

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(B) STATE 84188 (130057Z NOTAL)

(C) STATE 84186 (130054Z NOTAL)
(D) STATE 39166 (210101Z FEB. 75)
(E) STATE 53480 (102159Z MAR. 75)
(F) STATE 62219 (192209Z MAR. 75)

1. SECDEF IS REQUESTED IMMEDIATELY TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR POSSIBLE INITIATION OF RICE RESUPPLY OF PHNOM PENH VIA AERIAL DROPS. REQUIREMENT FOR PHNOM PENH IS 700 NET METRIC TONS OF RICE PER DAY.

2. REFTTEL A SUGGESTS USE OF C-130'S FLYING FROM U-TAPAO TO TAN SON NHUT EACH DAY TO PICK UP RIGGED LOADS OF DOUBLE-BAGGED RICE FOR AIRDROP, SHUTTLLING ALL DAY BETWEEN SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH AND OTHER CAMBODIA DROP LOCATIONS; AND MOVE TO UTAPAO EACH EVENING. THIS CONCEPT IS APPROVED. HOWEVER SECDEF MAY OF COURSE SUGGEST OTHER CONCEPTS IF BELIEVED MORE FEASIBLE MEET 700 MT DAILY RICE DELIVERY PHNOM PENH.

3. USE OF U.S. ARMY OR AIR FORCE RIGGING TEAMS IN TAN SON NHUT IS APPROVED SUBJECT GVN CLEARANCE AND UNLESS EMBASSY SAIGON PERCEIVES SOME OBJECTION. SECDEF SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL BE NEEDED TO PERFORM RIGGING OPERATION AND, IF SO, SERVICE DESIGNATED AND NUMBER OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED. AUGMENTATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BE KEPT TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. SECDEF IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH THIS INFO TO SECSTATE, AND ALSO TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IN ORDER FACILITATE RVN CONCURRENCE.

4. USE OF ADDITIONAL USAF C-130'S BAILED TO COMMERCIAL COMPANIES IS APPROVED. IF SECDEF BELIEVES USE OF USAF AIRCRAFT WITH MILITARY CREWS IS ONLY FEASIBLE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH MISSION, INDICATE THIS TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATELY. PLAN SHOULD BE FOR USE OF CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL AIRCREWS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

5. SECDEF ALSO REQUESTED TO ADVISE SECSTATE ITS BEST ESTIMATE OF DEGREE OF RISK TO AIRCREWS INVOLVED IN AIRDROP TO PHNOM PENH.

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6. ALSO INDICATE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT REQUIRED IN ORDER ACCOMPLISH THIS MISSION AND ESTIMATE OF COST PER DAY, SO THAT NUMBER OF DAYS LEFT WHICH CAN BE FINANCED WITHIN CURRENT AUTHORITY CAN BE CALCULATED.

7. UNEXPENDED FUNDS IN USAID PROGRAM TO CAMBODIA WILL BE USED FUND AIRDROP OPERATIONS. FUND CITE IS THE UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN APPROPRIATION ALLOTMENTS GIVEN IN

REFTELS D, E, AND F. THIS FUND TOTALS DOLLARS 13.5
MILLION LESS THE AMOUNTS USED FOR DC-8 OPERATIONS UNTIL
THEY WERE TERMINATED BY REFTEL B.

8. ADVISE BY IMMEDIATE TO SECSTATE CONCEPT DEVELOPED
AND PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE.

9. INITIATION OF OPERATION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BEGIN
UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL OBTAIN FROM SECSTATE. BANGKOK AND
SAIGON SHOULD NOT APPROACH RTG AND GVN AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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NNN

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